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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

08/01/2011 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER SAXENA, AKASH ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2128

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,583	09/30/2003	Andrej S. Mitrovic	230420US6YA	1606

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING FIRST-PRINCIPLES SIMULATION TO PROVIDE VIRTUAL SENSORS THAT

FACILITATE A SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING PROCESS

	YPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovi	sional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	11/01/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current **SMALL ENTITY status:**

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B -Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 or Fax (571)-273-2885

appropriate. All further of indicated unless corrected maintenance fee notificated to the control of the contro	correspondence including below or directed other ions.	ng the Patent, advance on herwise in Block 1, by (a	rders and notification of n a) specifying a new corres	naintenance fees wi pondence address;	Il be mailed to the curren	at correspondence address as parate "FEE ADDRESS" for	
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						(Signature)	
						(Date)	
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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	11/01/2011	
EXAM	INER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS				
SAXENA,	AKASH	2128	703-013000				
1. Change of corresponde	ence address or indicatio	n of "Fee Address" (37	2. For printing on the pa	atent front page, list			
CFR 1.363).	ondence address (or Cha	nge of Correspondence	(1) the names of up to or agents OR, alternative		attorneys 1		
☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.			(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to				
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PLEASE NOTE: Unle recordation as set forth	ess an assignee is ident n in 37 CFR 3.11. Comp	ified below, no assignee oletion of this form is NO	data will appear on the pa T a substitute for filing an a	itent. If an assigned assignment.	e is identified below, the	document has been filed for	
(A) NAME OF ASSIC	•		(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY	· ·	OUNTRY)		
Please check the appropri	ate assignee category or	categories (will not be pr	rinted on the patent):	Individual	poration or other private g	roup entity 🖵 Government	
4a. The following fee(s) a	are submitted:	41	b. Payment of Fee(s): (Plea	se first reapply any	previously paid issue fe	e shown above)	
Issue Fee	o small entity discount p	to D	A check is enclosed.	LE DEC 2020 :			
`	o small entity discount p		☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any				
			overpayment, to Depor	sit Account Number	(enclose	an extra copy of this form).	
5. Change in Entity Stat	cus (from status indicateds) SSMALL ENTITY state	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	☐ b. Applicant is no long	ron alaimina SMALI	L ENTITY status. See 37 (CED 1 27(a)(2)	
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Authorized Signature				Date			
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This collection of informa an application. Confident submitting the completed this form and/or suggesti	ation is required by 37 C iality is governed by 35 application form to the ons for reducing this bu- irginia 22313-1450 DO	FR 1.311. The informatic U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR USPTO. Time will vary rden, should be sent to the	on is required to obtain or r 1.14. This collection is estived to the collection of	etain a benefit by the imated to take 12 m idual case. Any con r, U.S. Patent and T	e public which is to file (arinutes to complete, including ments on the amount of trademark Office, U.S. Departments of the Commissions of the Commission of the Commis	nd by the USPTO to process) ing gathering, preparing, and ime you require to complete partment of Commerce, P.O. for Patents, P.O. Box 1450	

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90 08/01/2011	EXAMINER		
	SAXENA, AKASH		
1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			PAPER NUMBER
			THE EXTREME
]	09/30/2003 00 08/01/2011 X, MCCLELLAND ET	09/30/2003 Andrej S. Mitrovic 00 08/01/2011 K, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. ET	09/30/2003 Andrej S. Mitrovic 230420US6YA 00 08/01/2011 K, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. ET

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1249 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1249 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

- 1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
- 2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
- 3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
- 4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
- 5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
- 6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
- 7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
- 8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
- 9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
	10/673,583	MITROVIC, ANDREJ S.				
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit				
	AKASH SAXENA	2128				
	7 II O TO T	1120				
The MAILING DATE of this communication apperall claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this a or other appropriate communication GHTS. This application is subject	application. If not included on will be mailed in due course. THIS				
1. \square This communication is responsive to $\underline{07/11/2011}$.						
2. X The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,10-13,15-34,37-54 and 62.						
 3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority un a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some*c) ☐ None of the: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have 	been received.					
	2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No					
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority doc	cuments have been received in thi	s national stage application from the				
International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received:						
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONM THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		y complying with the requirements				
4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be subminification (PTO-152) which give						
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") mus	t be submitted.					
(a) \square including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers	on's Patent Drawing Review (PT	O-948) attached				
1) ☐hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date						
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date	s Amendment / Comment or in the	Office action of				
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1. each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the						
 DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT I 						
Attachment(s)						
1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. Notice of Informal					
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. 🗌 Interview Summa Paper No./Mail D	Pate .				
 Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>07/11/2011</u> 	7. Examiner's Amen					
 Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	8. 🛛 Examiner's Stater	nent of Reasons for Allowance				
	9. Other					

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim(s) 1-7, 10-13, 15-34, 37-54 and 62 are presented for examination based on the amendment filed 07/05/2011.

- 2. Claim(s) 8-9, 14, 35-36, 55-61 and 63-65 are cancelled.
- 3. Claim(s) 1, 28 and 62 are amended.
- 4. In view of the papers filed 07/11/2011, it has been found that this nonprovisional application, as filed, through error and without deceptive intent, improperly set forth the inventorship, and accordingly, this application has been corrected in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(a). The inventorship of this application has been changed by adding inventor Eric J Strang.

The application will be forwarded to the Office of Initial Patent Examination (OIPE) for issuance of a corrected filing receipt, and correction of Office records to reflect the inventorship as corrected.

- 5. Rejection(s) under 35 USC 112 for claim(s) 1-7, 10-13, 15-34, 37-54 and 62 are withdrawn in view of their amendment.
- 6. Rejection(s) under 35 USC 102/103 for claim(s1-7, 10-13, 15-34, 37-54 and 62 are withdrawn in view of their amendment.
- 7. Double Patenting rejection with applications 10/673507, 10/673138, 10/673501 and 10/673,467 is withdrawn in view of the Terminal Disclaimer filed 9/2/2008.
- 8. Claim(s) 1-7, 10-13, 15-34, 37-54 and 62 are allowed.

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Allowable Subject Matter

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claim(s) 1-7, 10-13, 15-34, 37-54 and 62 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claims, specifically "1) a spatially resolved model of a physical geometry of the semiconductor processing tool 2) grid set addressing the semiconductor processing tool or a geometry of the semiconductor processing tool (as defined in specification: [0076])... using code parallelization techniques on multiple simulation modules in the device manufacturing fab, and re-using known simulation solutions as initial conditions for the first principles simulation (as defined in specification: [0049][0050]) wherein re-using known simulation solutions comprises searching in the fab-level library for a closest fitting solution which if used for the initial condition would reduce the number of iterations required by the simulation module" (as defined in specification: [0076]), as disclosed in independent claims 1, 28 and 62 of the instant application.

Prior Art of Record

10. The Prior art of reference **Jain** (NPL) discloses teaches distributed simulation spanned over multiple simulation modules however does not teach grid set addressing of semiconductor tool or its geometry and fails to reuse the known simulation results to solve the computer-encoded differential equations of the first principles simulation physical model for the spatially resolved model concurrently

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with the actual process being performed and in a time frame shorter in time than the actual process being performed.

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- 11. The Prior art of reference **Tan** (US Patent No. US 6263255 B1) discloses process model and feed-forward and feed-back correction, however is also silent on grid set addressing of semiconductor tool or its geometry and fails to reuse the known simulation results.
- 12. The Prior art of Reference **Sonderman** (US Patent 6802045 B1) describes producing process parameters in a simulation environment for use in a manufacturing environment in semiconductor wafer processing (Sonderman: col. 4, 1.47 col. 5, 1. 10), which does not teach the claimed invention which requires solve the computer-encoded differential equations of the first principles simulation physical model for the spatially resolved model concurrently with the actual process being performed and in a time frame shorter in time than the actual process being performed.

Prior Art based on Updated Search

13. The Prior art **Su** et al (Cited PTO 892) teaches virtual fab (VF) as simulation tools to run in parallel With or before the actual fab for fast process, product, and operational developments, however it also does not teach grid set addressing of semiconductor tool or its geometry and fails to reuse the known simulation results to solve the computer-encoded differential equations of the first principles simulation physical model for the spatially resolved model concurrently with the actual process being

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performed and in a time frame shorter in time than the actual process being performed.

- 14. The Prior art **Allen** (US Patent No. US 6763277 B1) a simulation environment capable of simulating at least one process operation performed on a semiconductor wafer and generating simulation data; a process scheduling model in communication with the simulation environment, the process scheduling model capable of performing a process scheduling function based upon at least one of the simulation data and a metrology data, to control the process operation; and a process control in communication with the process scheduling model, the process control capable of performing a line balancing function to control a processing of at least one semiconductor wafer based upon the process scheduling function. Allen does not teach simulation in a shorter time period than actual process.
- 15. The Prior art **Patel** (US PGPUB 20050010319) teaches canonical model simulating the actual process, however it is used for validation and verification ([0033][0040]-[0043]).
- 16. The Prior art **Enda** (US Patent No. US 6304834) teaches using grid based approach for semiconductor simulation and even modifies the solution (re-using it) (Enda: Fig.8B), however fails to teach that the solution is found in shorter time frame than the actual process (Enda: Fig.11).
- 17. The Prior art **Riley** et al (US PGPUB 20020107604) teaches rapid thermal processing (RTP) model(ing) in conjunction with actual semiconductor processing with feed back (Fig.1), however it appears that it also does not teach performing

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simulation concurrently with the actual process being performed and in a time frame shorter in time than the actual process being performed.

18. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKASH SAXENA whose telephone number is (571)272-8351. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00- 6:00 PM Mon-Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamini S. Shah can be reached on (571)272-2279. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kamini S Shah/ Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2128

/Akash Saxena/ Examiner, Art Unit 2128